

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were pending in the application. The Office Action dated September 10, 2007 ("Office Action") rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by German Patent No. 266253 to Grieskamp ("Grieskamp"). The Office Action rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Grieskamp in view of German Patent No. 19951621 to Schliestechnik ("Schliestechnik"). Claims 2-5 and 7 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present Response, independent claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of allowable dependent claim 2. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as currently amended is allowable. Claims 3-7 depend from independent claim 1, and are thus also allowable. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejections set forth in the Office Action be withdrawn. All pending claims are allowable over the art of record, and the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

In the event that an appropriate fee amount is not enclosed by check for any fees due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1349.

Finally, in the event that the Examiner considers certain currently rejected claims to be allowable over the prior art and feels that informal discussion would be helpful in progressing the current application toward allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 11, 2008

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Celine Jimenez Crowson', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

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